

Please amend the claims of the SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A microscope ~~Microscope~~ (2) with a stand comprising (4) ~~consisting of~~ a first housing shell and a second housing shell (16 and 18), the stand (4) carrying a an adjustable microscope stage (10) ~~with an adjustable height~~, and the first and second housing shells ~~shell~~ (16 and 18) defining a base part (20) on which the stand (4) rests, ~~characterized in that the~~ said stand (4) is having a generally C-shaped configuration, ~~that there are provided~~ a stand base cover (22) ~~[[,]]~~ which closes the base part (20) of the stand (4) toward the outside, and at least one connecting means (34) for the first and the second housing shells ~~shell~~ (16 and 18), the connecting means (34) being inaccessible from outside the stand (4) when the stand base cover (22) is in place.
2. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said first and second housing shells are cooperating, and one of the cooperating first and second housing shells (16 and 18) ~~defines~~ define a recess (28) capable of receiving the microscope stage, (10) the height of which can be adjusted with an adjusting knob (12), an opening (30) being provided for the adjusting knob (12) in the first and the second housing shells ~~shell~~ (16, 18).
3. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a screw (54) fastener is provided for connecting the connecting means (34) for the first and the second housing shells ~~shell~~ (16 and 18) and ~~that the tightening with a mounting means (64) of said fastener~~ is performed through the base part (20) of the stand (4) so that the outer contour of the stand (4) is undisturbed.

4. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the stand (4) ~~has~~ comprises an opening (24) for receiving an eyepiece tube (6) and a holder (26) for at least one objective (8).

5. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 4, ~~characterized in that the~~ further comprising an eyepiece, said eyepiece (7) in the eyepiece tube (6) defines defining a first an optical axis (9) and that at least one of the objectives (8) in the ~~work~~ a working position defines an a second optical axis (13) of the objective ~~eyepiece (7)~~ and that the first optical axis (9) of the eyepiece (7) and the second optical axis (13) of the objective (8) are disposed at an obtuse angle (α).

6. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 5, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the obtuse angle (α) is formed between the second optical axis (13) of the at least one objective (8) and the first optical axis (9) of the eyepiece (13).

7. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that inside wherein~~ the interior of the first housing shell or the second housing shell (16 ~~or 18~~) ~~there~~ is provided with an optical deflection means (36) configured so that the image of ~~the~~ a specimen seen by the user has the same orientation as the specimen itself.

8. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 7, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said optical deflecting means (36) is a mirror system or a prism.

9. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the dimensions of the stand (4) together with the microscope stage (10) and the adjusting knob are smaller than those of a conventional carrying case (14).

10. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 9, ~~characterized in that the~~ wherein said carrying case ~~(14) consists of~~ comprises a first and a second part, ~~(66 and 67) and that in each of the first and second parts part (66 and 67) of the carrying case (14) there is provided~~ having a protective transport device for the microscope, said protective transport devices being configured as part of a negative impression of the microscope.

11. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a holder for an objective and a single objective is disposed in the holder ~~for the objective~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The microscope ~~Microscope~~ as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ further comprising a holder for an objective turret is and an objective turret disposed in the holder ~~for the objective~~.